

STATE HEALTH COUNCIL

October 16, 2012

A teleconference meeting of the State Health Council was called to order by Chairman Gordon Myerchin at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 in AV Room 212 of the Judicial Wing, State Capitol, Bismarck, ND.

Members present:

Gordon Myerchin, Grand Forks, Chairman
Marlene Kouba, Regent, Secretary
Greg Allen, Jamestown
Howard Anderson, Turtle Lake
Hjalmer Carlson, Minot
Mike Jones, Bismarck
Jerry Jurena, Bismarck
Dennis Wolf, MD, Dickinson

Members absent:

Carmen Toman, Bismarck, Vice Chairman
Lee Larson, Leeds
Wade Peterson, Mandan

Staff members present:

Terry L. Dwelle, MD, State Health Officer
Arvy Smith, Deputy State Health Officer
Gary Garland, Office of Community Assistance
Londa Rodahl, Recording Secretary
Brenda Weisz, Accounting

Loan Repayment Applications

Gary Garland presented the physician loan repayment application for Katie O'Brien Paradis, MD, who is practicing in Oakes, ND.

Mr. Garland noted that in May the Department received less funding from the Community Health Trust Fund (tobacco settlement dollars) for the loan repayment programs than previously received. He also stated the Department applied for, and received about a month ago, a \$440,000 federal grant that would help assist North Dakota's loan repayment programs for physicians, midlevel practitioners, and dentists. The conditions of the federal money: 1) there needs to be a 50/50 match between non-federal money and federal money; and 2) the individual practitioner receiving the award must practice in a federally-designated workforce shortage area. Oakes is in such an area. The federal program would then pay \$50,000 over a 2-year period but the state and the community would divvy up the other \$50,000—each pay \$25,000 over a 2-year period. By using this federal program, we would save some money within the physician loan repayment program and perhaps allowing another physician or two into the program, depending on the amount of money available.

The federal grant was developed for three physicians, four dentists, and three midlevel practitioners over the biennium. We could bring three in the first year of the biennium and then pay them again in the second year of the biennium. So it would not be adding three each year but three during the biennium. The grant is renewable and since we received the award, it's

very likely that we would be able to continue the program. We would reapply in 2014 and if the program is working, we would keep the program going provided Congress appropriates dollars to run these programs.

MR. JURENA MOVED THAT THE WE TAKE THE \$22,500 FROM OAKES PER YEAR FOR TWO YEARS AND MATCH IT WITH THE FEDERAL MONEY FOR DR. KATIE O'BRIEN PARADIS. SECONDED BY MR. CARLSON.

The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED. Allen, Anderson, Carlson, Jones, Jurena, Kouba, Myerchin, and Peterson voted 'aye'. There were no 'nay' votes. Larson, Toman and Wolf—absent.

Mr. Garland presented the dental loan repayment applications along with the review committee recommendations of: Dr. Benjamin Garr in Carrington, Dr. Jeremy Messer in Williston and Dr. Sterling Stevens in Cavalier. None of these dentists are in federally-designated dental shortage areas; thus, the federal funds can't be used for these dentists.

MR. JONES MOVED THE APPROVAL OF DENTAL LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATIONS FOR DR. BENJAMIN GARR, DR. JEREMY MESSER AND DR. STERLING STEVENS. SECONDED BY MRS. KOUBA.

The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED. Allen, Anderson, Carlson, Jones, Jurena, Kouba, Myerchin, and Peterson voted 'aye'. There were no 'nay' votes. Larson, Toman and Wolf—absent.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



Marlene Kouba, Secretary